

# Historical Papers Communications historiques



## Obituaries

Volume 11, numéro 1, 1976

Québec 1976

URI : <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/030815ar>

DOI : <https://doi.org/10.7202/030815ar>

[Aller au sommaire du numéro](#)

### Éditeur(s)

The Canadian Historical Association/La Société historique du Canada

### ISSN

0068-8878 (imprimé)

1712-9109 (numérique)

[Découvrir la revue](#)

### Citer ce document

(1976). Obituaries. *Historical Papers / Communications historiques*, 11(1), 268–273. <https://doi.org/10.7202/030815ar>

All rights reserved © The Canadian Historical Association/La Société historique du Canada, 1976

Cet document est protégé par la loi sur le droit d'auteur. L'utilisation des services d'Érudit (y compris la reproduction) est assujettie à sa politique d'utilisation que vous pouvez consulter en ligne.

<https://apropos.erudit.org/fr/usagers/politique-dutilisation/>

**é**rudit

Cet article est diffusé et préservé par Érudit.

Érudit est un consortium interuniversitaire sans but lucratif composé de l'Université de Montréal, l'Université Laval et l'Université du Québec à Montréal. Il a pour mission la promotion et la valorisation de la recherche.

<https://www.erudit.org/fr/>

---

## OBITUARIES

### TREVOR RICHARD REESE 1929-1976

Le décès de l'universitaire britannique Trevor Reese, le 16 juin dernier, a consterné les spécialistes de l'histoire du Commonwealth. L'un d'entre eux, M. David Farr, professeur à l'Université Carleton, retrace pour *le Bulletin* les grandes lignes de la carrière de cet homme qu'il a bien connu.

\* \* \*

Canadian and Commonwealth historians who have worked in London will be saddened at the death on 16 June of Trevor Reese, Reader in Commonwealth History at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies at the University of London. As assistant to Professor G.S. Graham and then in his own right, Dr. Reese conducted the seminars that were a regular and valued meeting place for Commonwealth historians, both from Britain and overseas. In 1972 Dr. Reese was instrumental in providing another forum for the discussion of imperial history when he founded the *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*. His links with Canada included teaching a summer session at Carleton University in 1972 and serving as an external examiner for Dalhousie University.

Trevor Reese's education was undertaken at the University of Sheffield and at King's College, London. He taught for eight years in Australia, at Newcastle and Sydney, before joining the staff of the Institute in 1964. His research interests were in the eighteenth-century beginnings of Georgia, in which field he published two books and edited a series of documents, and in the history of modern Australia. Here his most important work was *Australia, New Zealand and the United States: A Survey of International Relations, 1941-68* (1969). He also wrote a history of the Royal Commonwealth Society for that organization's centenary in 1968.

Trevor Reese was a gentle man, an understanding supervisor of graduate theses and a scholar of quality and style. His friends in the Canadian Historical Association would like to extend to his widow and three children their deep sympathy at his untimely death.

### ARCHER FORTESCUE DUGUID 1887-1976

Le colonel A.F. Duguid, spécialiste méconnu de la participation canadienne à la Grande Guerre, est décédé le 4 janvier dernier. Le colonel G.W.L. Nicholson, qui a travaillé sous ses ordres et qui a poursuivi son oeuvre, fait revivre, dans le texte suivant, les principaux moments de la vie du colonel Duiguid.

\* \* \*

Colonel Archer Fortescue Duguid, D.S.O., O.B.E., C.D., died at Kingston on 4 January, at the age of 88. Born at Bourtie House, Aberdeenshire, the son of Peter and Isobel Barclay Duguid, he attended Fettes College, Edinburgh, before coming to Canada. In 1912 he graduated from McGill with the degree of B.Sc.

His military career began in May 1910, when he was granted a temporary commission as Lieutenant in the Canadian Militia for the purpose of qualifying for a commission in the Imperial Army. But the Great War intervened, and in June 1914 Duguid was commissioned Lieutenant in the 29th Battery of the 6th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery. He went overseas with the First Canadian Contingent in October as a member of the staff of the 2nd Brigade C.F.A., and in the following February he landed at St. Nazaire with the 1st Canadian Division. For the last six months of the war he served as General Staff Officer, 2nd Grade, at Headquarters in England for duty with the Canadian War Narrative Section. In 1921 the Historical Section of the General Staff was reorganized and the War Narrative Section was merged with the Historical Section. The latter's Director, Brigadier-General E.A. Cruikshank, was retired and replaced by Major Duguid, who at the age of 34 was appointed to the Permanent Force in the rank of Colonel.

The first book in the Historical Section's series, "Official History of the Canadian Forces in the Great War 1914-19", appeared in 1925 with the publication of *The Medical Services*, by Sir Andrew Macphail. Meanwhile Colonel Duguid and his staff were busy classifying the mass of documents which would serve as source material for the official historian. By the spring of 1929 Duguid could report that 135 tons had been sorted and indexed, filling 3138 feet of shelving with material available for historical research — some 10½ tons remaining to be processed. He planned a history of eight volumes, each dealing with a well-defined period of Canadian military action in the field. The first volume, which covered from the outbreak of war to the formation of the Canadian Corps in September 1915, appeared in 1938. Eleven of its chapters were devoted to a dramatic account of the fighting in the Ypres Salient at the time of the first gas attack in April 1915. A book of 595 pages, it was accompanied by a volume of 460 pages of appendices. The two books were given an enthusiastic reception by the press but no more volumes in the planned series were published. On the outbreak of the Second World War work on the remaining seven volumes was suspended for the duration. While Major C.P. Stacey, who was sent to London in 1940 as Historical Officer, Canadian Military Headquarters, set about assembling and preparing material for a history of the Canadian Army in the Second World War, Colonel Duguid remained in Ottawa, concentrating largely on the recording of military activities on this side of the Atlantic. In the autumn of 1945 Charles Stacey was promoted Colonel and appointed Director of the Historical Section, with Colonel Duguid retaining the appointment of Official Historian, Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Work was resumed towards publication of a second volume, which was to carry the narrative forward into the summer of 1916. But two years later it was

still unfinished, and in October 1947 Colonel Duguid, who had reached the age of 60, was retired from the Army, and the project on which he had worked for a quarter of a century was abandoned. "My skilled staff was scattered", he was to write two years later, "and the mass of material compiled and partly printed for the remaining volumes was nailed up in packing cases . . . The reason for the abandonment of the history was given by the Minister of National Defence (The Hon. Brooke Claxton) in three words: 'Nobody wants it.'"

Brooke Claxton was wrong, as many thousands of veterans of the First World War could have forcefully told him. When publication of the volumes of the official history of the Second World War began in the 1950's, the demand was heard increasingly from the men who had fought in the C.E.F., "What about *our* war?" In 1956 Mr. Claxton's successor, the Hon. Ralph O. Campney, instructed the Historical Section to prepare a one-volume history of the Canadian Army in the First World War. I was put in charge of the assignment. The foreword to *Canadian Expeditionary Force 1914-1919*, published in 1962, acknowledged the value that the author and his staff had derived from the published and unpublished work of his predecessor in the field.

If this memorial to Fortescue Duguid has tended to dwell at some length on the planned history of the First World War, it is because his name has been for so long associated with that monumental project. It may be said that the work was conceived on too grand a scale to be accomplished by one man lacking the assistance of a staff of trained historians. A major factor contributing to the failure to produce more than one volume in the projected series may be found in the extent to which Colonel Duguid's time was taken up with other tasks. Among them were the demanding assignments of supplying data for the award of battle honours to Canadian regiments, and for the erection of Canada's battlefield memorials. A scheme drawn up by Duguid had to take into account the breaking up of many battalions on their arrival overseas and the dispersal of their men to serving units. It involved tracing 275,000 individuals through 45 battles, and establishing, by means of 3000 charts, their positions with regard to each specified period and area. For the Canadian Battlefields Memorials Commission, the Historical Section furnished narratives of all the engagements to be commemorated, and Duguid composed the inscriptions that were carved on each memorial.

Another major project concerned the writing of the inscriptions appearing on the walls of the Memorial Chamber in the Peace Tower. Actually it was much more than that. In 1926 Colonel Duguid submitted a complete plan for the symbolical mural decoration of the Chamber, which on the recommendation of the Chief Architect superseded the original design. The devices to be carved, each of which had a special significance, numbered more than 800, and the Director spent many hours with the sculptor during the carving, to ensure the accuracy of the work. He also planned and supervised the execution of the symbolical decoration of the Book of Remembrance, which, when placed in the Memorial Chamber, was supported on an ingenious mounting that he had devised, employ-

ing a system of counter-balances to ensure that the open pages, which were turned every day, would be constantly level with each other at all times of the year.

From his early days in Aberdeenshire, Fortescue Duguid had maintained a lively interest in heraldry, having been instructed by his father, who was a close friend of the Lord Lyon King of Arms in Scotland. He was later to learn more from his cousin, Thomas Innes, of Learney, who became the Lord Lyon. It is not surprising therefore that Duguid should have become one of the founders and a life member of the Heraldry Society of Canada. He designed the maple leaf flag for the First Canadian Army in the Second World War, and in 1945 he was called as an expert witness before the parliamentary committee on a national flag for Canada. For 27 years, from 1944 to 1971, he served on the Board of Directors of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. To the numerous articles on various aspects of the First World War that had appeared in print from time to time, he added after his retirement from the army a full-length volume, *History of the Canadian Grenadier Guard 1760-1964*, which he published in 1965.

His knowledge of military history, of heraldry and of symbolism enabled Archer Fortescue Duguid to contribute in no small measure to the cultural heritage of the country of his adoption. Yet it will be the impressive volume in which he tells the dramatic story of Canada's army in the first year of the Great War for which he will be chiefly remembered. Many men have left a lesser memorial.

G.W.L. Nicholson

#### W. STEWART MACNUTT 1908-1976

L'historien W. Stewart MacNutt, bien connu pour ses recherches sur le Nouveau-Brunswick et les provinces maritimes, est décédé à Frédéricton, le 9 février 1976. Son collègue Murray Young a bien voulu retracer pour le *Bulletin* la vie et la carrière du professeur MacNutt.

\* \* \*

Association members will be saddened to learn of the recent death of W. Stewart MacNutt. His colleague, Murray Young, chairman of the Department of History at the University of New Brunswick, has generously consented to write the following appreciation of Professor MacNutt's life and career.

William Stewart MacNutt, Professor Emeritus of the University of New Brunswick, a former member of the Council of the Canadian Historical Association, former president of the Humanities' Association of Canada, former dean of Arts of the University of New Brunswick and until recently Canadian chair-

man of the International Programme for Loyalist Studies, died at Fredericton, New Brunswick on February 9, 1976. In his death the historical profession in Canada has lost a most distinguished and productive scholar and the Maritime Provinces an influential leader of the academic community.

Born in 1908 in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Stewart MacNutt was educated at Prince of Wales College, at Dalhousie University and at the University of London. At Dalhousie he became a great admirer of the late Professor George Wilson and at the University of London attended the imperial history seminar of the late Professor A.P. Newton, a historian who had been trained as a physicist and insisted on rigor in the interpretation of historical documents.

In his own approach to the study of history, Stewart drew upon his education in the classics, on his training under Newton, and also upon his roots in the Maritime community. Among his ancestors were men prominent in the history of Prince Edward Island; Robert Harris, who painted the well-known Fathers of Confederation, was a great uncle. Service overseas as a supply officer with the North Nova Scotia Highlanders in World War II gave him experience of the ways of men and an unrivalled knowledge of the Italian countryside, knowledge which he used to good effect in his popular lectures in introductory mediaeval history at the University of New Brunswick, where he received an appointment in 1946, after spending several months as a lecturer at Khaki College in England.

The publication of his article "The Politics of the Timber Trade in Colonial New Brunswick" in 1949 first drew Stewart MacNutt to national attention. It was one in a series of publications which established his reputation as an interpreter of the history of the Atlantic Provinces. His books included *The Days of Lorne* (1955), *New Brunswick: a History 1784-1867* (1963), and *The Atlantic Provinces: the Emergence of Colonial Society 1712-1857* (1965). In recent months he had completed a volume of Loyalist memorials.

He was a popular speaker who gave freely of his talents in talks to so many organizations. He was also a forceful and colourful debater; those who were in attendance will always remember his advocacy of Maritime Union at the meeting of the Atlantic Association of Historians in Charlottetown in 1971 — though he failed to persuade the people nearest to his heart, his fellow Islanders.

Stewart MacNutt's contributions to scholarship were recognized by his election to the Royal Society of Canada and to the Royal Historical Society. His academic honours included the Governor General's Medal at Dalhousie, an IODE Overseas Scholarship, a Nuffield Fellowship, a Canadian Historical Association Award for Provincial History, an American Historical Association for State and Local History Award, Canada Council Fellowships and a Killam Committee Fellowship of the Canada Council. He received honorary degrees from Dalhousie University, St. Thomas University, the University of Prince Edward Island and the University of New Brunswick.

#### OBITUARIES . . .

It will be the task in the years ahead for scholars in the field of historiography to assign Stewart MacNutt his place in Canadian regional scholarship. His place will not be a small one, not least because of his kindness and consideration for young scholars. His conviviality, his patience, his persistence in research and scholarly activity despite the distractions of administration, contributed immeasurably to the revival of interest in the study of the Atlantic region.